Moksa is release from birth and death. Union with God is another name for becoming eternal.

XVIII

Evil and Suffering

In the Vedic hymns, virtue is conformity with the Vedic precepts, and vice nonconformity. In the Upanisads knowledge of life eternal is virtue and ignorance vice. Error is the denial by the ego of the supremacy of the whole, or its own assertion of self-sufficiency. Evil is the denial in conduct by the ego of the supremacy of the whole. Sin is the product of the shallow insight, breeding selfish egoism that hugs its own narrowness and shrinks from all sacrifice. The Upanisads do not say that evil is illusion or that evil is permanent. It is unreal in the sense that it is bound to be transmuted into good. It is real to the extent that it requires effort to transform its nature.

There are many passages in the Upanisads which emphasize the difficulty of attaining Brahman. "He of whom one many are not even able to hear, whom many, even when they hear of Him, do not

Comprehend; wonderful is a man when found who is able to teach Him "the self, wonderful is he who comprehends ~~Him~~ Him." (Mundaka III. 1. 6.). The path that leads to salvation is like "the sharp edge of the razor, difficult to cross and hard to tread." (Katha. I. 2. 7.) The good and the pleasant are not always conjoined. "The good is one thing, the pleasant another. These two have different objects and chain a man. It is well with him who chooses the good. He who chooses the pleasant misses his end." (Ibid. I. 3. 14.). Morality implies a wrestling with the lower tendency, the pursuit of which appears pleasant. When man struggles to free himself from his natural entanglements, life becomes intense with strife. The more the struggle and sacrifice, the greater are the joy and freedom. Suffering is the ransom the Son of man ~~would~~ might pay if he would attain his crown. "It is good for me that I have been afflicted", says the Psalmist; for suffering is the messenger of God revealing to us the imperfection of the world, the episodic nature of earthly life. "Man verily is the sacrifice", says the Upanisad. (Chan: III 16. 1.). Life is a perpetual dying till we are face to face with God. The illusions of life are to be torn away and our cherished dreams dispersed before the life divine can be reached.